

Attorney Docket No.: 2081CON2CIPCON(203-2400CON2CIPCON) IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Buysse et al.

Examiner:

Roy Gibson

Serial No.:

10/736,180

Group:

Art Unit 3739

Filed:

December 15, 2003

Dated:

March 19, 2004

For:

BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT

FOR SEALING VESSELS

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that copies of the references listed on pages 1-9 are not required since this application was filed after June 30, 2003 pursuant to 51 C.F.R.§1.98. Copies of foreign references and publications listed on pages 10-14 of form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

Applicant would also like to bring commonly-owned U.S. Application Serial No. 10/474,227 filed October 3, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/299,650 filed November 19, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/246,087 filed September 17, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/472,295 filed September 18, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/474,169 filed October 3, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/116,944 filed April 5, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/369,894 filed February 20, 2003;

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37.C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 19, 2004.

Dated: March 19, 2004

Edward C. Meagher

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/474,170 filed October 3, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/116,824 filed April 5, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/284,562 filed October 30, 2002; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/471,818 filed September 11, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/712,486 filed November 13, 2003; U.S. Application Serial No. 10/460,926 filed June 13, 2003 to the Examiner's attention. Copies of these applications are enclosed.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- [] This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- [] This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- [X] To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

- [] Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
- [] Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(ii).
 - [] Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
 - [] Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. **50-2140**.
- [] Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- [] Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140.
- [X] Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account <u>50-2140</u>. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. <u>50-2140</u> therefor. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward C. Meagher Reg. No. 41,189

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP 445 Broad Hollow Road Suite 225 Melville, New York 11747

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

IN AN APPLICATION

Docket Number (Optional)
2081CON2CIPCON
(203-2400CON2CIPCON)

Application Number 10/736,180

Applicant

Buysse et al.

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Filing Date

Group Art Number

December 15, 2003

3739

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner	Document					Filing Date
Initial	Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	if Appropriate
	RE36795	7/25/00	RYDELL	ļ		
	371,664	10/18/1887	BRANNAN ET AL.		_	
	702,472	6/17/1902	PIGNOLET			
	728,883	5/26/1903	DOWNES			
	1,586,645	6/1/26	BIERMAN			
	2,002,594	5/28/35	WAPPLER ET AL.			
	2,011,169	8/13/35	F.C. WAPPLER			
	2,176,479	10/17/39	WILLIS			
	2,305,156	4/17/41	GRUBEL			
	2,632,661	8/14/48	CRISTOFV		_	
	2,668,538	2/9/54	BAKER			
	2,796,065	6/18/57	KAPP			
	3,459,187	3/9/67	PALLOTTA			
	3,643,663	2/22/72	SUTTER			
	3,651,811	3/28/72	HILDEBRANDT ET AL.			
	3,862,630	1/28/75	BALAMUTH			
	3,866,610	2/18/75	KLETSCHKA			
	3,911,766	10/14/75	FRIDOLPH ET AL.			
	3,920,021	11/18/75	HILTEBRANDT			
	3,921,641	11/25/75	HULKA			
	3,938,527	2/17/76	RIOUX ET AL.			
	3,952,749	4/27/76	FRIDOLPH ET AL.			
	4,005,714	2/1/77	HILTEBRANDT			
	4,074,718	2/21/78	MORRISON, JR.			
	4,088,134	5/9/78	MAZZARIELLO			
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Sheet without references 2 of 14 Form PTO-1449 Docket Number (Optional) Application Number 2081CON2CIPCON 10/736,180 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (203-2400CON2CIPCON) IN AN APPLICATION Applicant Buysse et al. (Use several sheets if necessary) Filing Date Group Art Number December 15, 2003 3739 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Examiner Document Filing Date Initial Number Date Name Class Subclass if Appropriate 4,165,746 8/28/79 **BURGIN** 4,300,564 11/17/81 **FURIHATA** 4,370,980 2/1/83 LOTTICK 4,492,231 1/8/85 AUTH 4,552,143 11/12/85 LOTTICK 4,574,804 3/11/86 **KURWA** 4,597,379 7/1/86 KIHN ET AL. 4,657,016 4/14/87 GARITO ET AL. 4,671,274 6/9/87 **SOROCHENKO** 4,685,459 8/11/87 XOCH ET AL. 4,763,669 8/16/88 **JAEGER** 4,827,929 5/9/89 **HODGE** 4,887,612 12/19/89 **ESSER ET AL** 4,938,761 7/3/90 **ENSSLIN** 5,007,908 4/16/91 **RYDELL** 5,026,370 6/25/91 **LOTTICK** 5,099,840 3/31/92 GOBLE ET AL. 5,116,332 5/26/92 LOTTICK 5,151,102 9/29/92 XAMIYAMA ET AL 5,176,695 1/5/93 DULEBOHN 5,197,964 3/30/93 **PARINS** 5,215,101 6/1/93 JACOBS ET AL. 5,217,457 6/8/93 **DELAHUERGA ET AL** 5,217,458 6/8/93 **PARINS** 5,244,462 9/14/93 DELAHUERGA ET AL. 5,250,047 10/5/93 **RYDELL** Examiner Date Considered

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

Form PTO-1449

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Initial	Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	if Appropriate
	5,258,006	11/2/93	RYDELL ET AL.	<u> </u>		
	5,261,918	11/16/93	PHILLIPS ET AL.			
	5,275,615	1/4/94	ROSE			. .
	5,277,201	1/11/94	STERN		<u> </u>	
	5,282,799	2/1/94	RYDELL			
	5,290,286	3/1/94	PARINS			
	5,304,203	4/19/94	EL-MALLAWANY ET AL.			
	5,308,357	5/3/94	LICHTMAN			
	5,318,589	6/7/94	LICHTMAN			
	5,324,289	6/28/94	EGGERS			
	5,330,471	7/19/94	EGGERS			
	5,334,183	8/2/94	WUCHINICH			
	5,334,215	8/2/94	CHEN			
	5,336,221	8/9/94	ANDERSON			
	5,342,359	8/30/94	RYDELL			
	5,342,381	8/30/94	TIDEMAND			
	5,342,393	8/30/94	STACK			
	5,352,222	10/4/94	RYDELL			
	5,354,271	10/11/94	VODA			
	5,356,408	10/18/94	RYDELL			
	5,366,477	11/22/94	LEMARIE, III ET AL.			
	5,383,897	1/24/95	WHOLEY			
	5,389,098	2/14/95	TSURUTA ET AL.			
	5,389,104	2/14/95	HAHNEN ET AL.			
	5,391,166	2/21/95	EGGERS			
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION		Docket Number (Optional) 2081CON2CIPC (203-2400CON2CIF Applicant Buysse et al.		Application 10/736,18		
(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date December 15, 20	003	Group Art N	umber 3739	
		U.S. PATEN	T DOCUMENTS			_
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	5,391,183	2/21/95	JANZEN ET AL.			
	5,403,312	4/4/95	YATES ET AL.			
	5,411,519	5/2/95	TOVEY ET AL.			
	5,411,520	5/2/95	NASH ET AL.			
	5,413,571	5/9/95	KATSAROS ET AL.			
	5,415,657	5/16/95	TAYMOR-LURIA			
	5,423,810	6/13/95	GOBLE ET AL.			
_	5,425,739	6/20/95	JESSEN			
	5,429,616	7/4/95	SCHAFFER			
	5,431,674	7/11/95	BASILE ET AL.			
	5,437,292	7/4/95	SCHAFFER			
	5,438,302	8/1/95	GOBLE			
	5,441,517	8/15/95	KENSEY ET AL.			
	5,443,463	8/22/95	STERN ET AL.			
	5,443,464	8/22/95	RUSSELL ET AL.			
	5,443,480	8/22/95	JACOBS ET AL			
	5,445,638	8/29/95	RYDELL ET AL.			
	5,445,658	8/29/95	DURRFELD ET AL.			
	5,451,224	9/19/95	GOBLE ET AL.		_	
	5,456,684	10/10/95	SCHMIDT ET AL.			
	5,458,598	10/17/95	FEINBERG ET AL.			
	5,460,629	10/24/95	SHLAIN ET AL.			
	5,462,546	10/31/95	RYDELL			
	5,472,443	12/5/95	CORDIS ET AL.			
	5,478,351	12/26/95	MEADE ET AL.			
Examiner				Date C	Considere	d

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

Form PTO-1449

Docket Number (Optional) 2081CON2CIPCON (203-2400CON2CIPCON) Application Number 10/736,180

Applicant Buysse et al.

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Filing Date

December 15, 2003

Group Art Number 3739

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Initial	Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	if Appropriate
	5,484,436	1/6/96	EGGERS ET AL.			
	5,496,317	3/5/96	GOBLE ET AL.			
	5,499,997	3/19/96	SHARPE ET AL.			
	5,509,922	4/23/96	ARANYI ET AL.			
	5,514,134	5/7/96	RYDELL ET AL.			
	5,527,313	6/18/96	SCOTT ET AL.			
	5,531,744	7/2/96	NARDELLA ET AL.	<u> </u>		
	5,540,684	7/30/96	HASSLER, JR.			
	5,540,685	7/30/96	PARINS, ET AL.			
	5,540,715	7/30/96	KATSAROS ET AL.			
	5,558,672	9/24/96	EDWARDS ET AL.			
	5,569,241	10/29/96	EDWARDDS			
	5,571,100	11/5/96	GOBLE ET AL.			
	5,569,243	10/29/96	KORTENBACH ET AL.			
	5,573,535	11/12/96	VIKLUND			
	5,585,896	12/17/96	YAMAZAKI ET AL.			
	5,590,570	1/7/97	LEMAIRE, III ET AL.			
	5,603,711	2/18/97	PARINS, ET AL.			
	5,603,723	2/18/97	ARANYI ET AL.			
	5,626,578	5/6/97	TIHON			
	5,630,833	5/20/97	KATSAROS ET AL.			
	5,637,110	6/10/97	PENNYBACKER ET AL.			
	5,643,294	7/1/97	TOVEY ET AL.			
	5,647,869	7/15/97	GOBLE ET AL.			_
	5,647,871	7/15/97	LEVINE ET AL.			
	5,649,959	7/22/97	HANNAM ET AL.			
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

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Group Art Number 3739

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Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	5,658,281	8/19/97	HEARD			
	5,667,526	9/16/97	LEVIN			
	5,674,220	10/7/97	FOX ET AL.			
	5,693,051	12/2/97	SCHULZE ET AL.			
	5,695,522	12/9/97	LEMAIRE, III ET AL.			
	5,700,261	12/23/97	BRINKERHOFF			
	5,702,390	12/30/97	AUSTIN ET AL.			
	5,707,369	1/13/98	VAITEKUNAS ET AL.			
	5,709,680	1/20/98	YATES ET AL.			
	5,727,428	3/17/98	LEMAIRE, III ET AL			
	5,743,906	4/28/98	PARINS, ET AL.			
	5,755,717	5/26/98	YATES ET AL.			
	5,766,166	6/16/98	HOOVEN			
	5,766,170	6/16/98	EGGERS			
	5,769,849	6/23/98	EGGERS			
	5,776,128	7/7/98	EGGERS			
	5,776,130	7/7/98	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	5,779,701	07/14/98	MCBRAYER ET AL.			
	5,792,137	8/11/98	CARR ET AL.			
	5,792,177	8/11/98	KASEDA			
	5,797,958	08/25/98	YOON			
	5,800,449	9/1/98	WALES			
	5,810,808	9/22/98	EGGERS			
	5,810,811	09/22/98	YATES ET AL.			
	5,814,043	9/29/98	SHAPETON			
	5,827,271	10/27/98	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	5,827,279	10/27/98	HUGHETT ET AL.			
	5,827,281	10/27/98	LEVIN			
Examiner				Date C	onsidered	<u> </u>

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

Form PTO-1449

Docket Number (Optional) 2081CON2CIPCON (203-2400CON2CIPCON) Application Number 10/736,180

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Group Art Number 3739

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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17.11.01	5,833,690	11/10/98	YATES ET AL.	Oldoo	Oubciass	п Арргориас
				╁		
	5,843,080	12/1/98	FLEENOR ET AL.			
	5,849,022	12/15/98	SAKASHITA ET AL.	 		
	5,853,412	12/29/98	MAYENBERGER	ļ		
	5,891,141	4/6/99	RYDELL			
	5,891,142	4/6/99	EGGERS ET AL.			
	5,893,863	04/13/99	YOON			
	5,893,875	4/13/99	O'CONNOR ET AL.			
	5,902,301	5/11/99	OLIG			
	5,908,420	7/1/99	PARINS, ET AL.			
	5,913,874	6/22/99	BERNS ET AL.			
	5,921,984	7/13/99	SUTCU ET AL.			
	5,935,126	8/10/99	RIZA			
	5,951,549	9/14/99	RICHARDSON ET AL.			
	5,954,720	9/21/99	WILSON ET AL.			
	5,976,132	11/2/99	MORRIS			
	5,989,277	11/23/99	LEMAIRE, III ET AL.			
	6,004,335	12/21/99	VAITEKUNAS ET AL.			
	6,024,744	2/15/00	KESE ET AL.			
	6,033,399	3/7/00	GINES			
	6,039,733	3/21/00	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	6,050,996	4/18/00	SCHMALTZ ET AL.			
	6,053,914	4/25/00	EGGERS ET AL.			
	6,053,933	4/25/00	BALAZS ET AL.			
	6,083,223	7/4/00	BAKER			
	6,086,586	7/11/00	HOOVEN			·
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

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Buysse et al.

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Filing Date December 15, 2003 Group Art Number 3739

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner	Document					Filing Date
Initial	Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	if Appropriate
	6,090,107	7/18/00	BORGMEIER ET AL.			
	6,090,109	7/18/00	LANDS ET AL.			
	6,096,031	8/1/00	MITCHELL ET AL.			
	6,099,550	8/8/00	YOON			
	6,102,909	8/15/00	CHEN ET AL.			
	6,110,171	8/29/00	RYDELL			
	6,113,596	9/5/00	HOOVEN ET AL.			
	6,113,598	9/5/00	BAKER			
	6,126,658	10/3/00	BAKER			
	6,152,923	11/28/00	RYAN			
	6,174,309	1/16/01	WRUBLEWSKI ET AL.			
	6,179,834	1/30/01	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	6,179,837	1/30/01	HOOVEN			
	6,183,467	2/6/01	SHAPETON ET AL.			
	6,187,003	2/13/01	BUYSSE ET AL.			
	6,190,386	2/20/01	RYDELL			
	6,193,718	2/27/01	KORTENBACH ET AL.			
	6,206,876	3/27/01	LEVINE ET AL.			
	6,206,877	3/27/01	KESE ET AL.			
	6,224,593	5/1/01	RYAN ET AL.			
	6,228,080	5/8/01	GINES			
	6,228,083	5/8/01	LANDS ET AL.			
	6,267,761	7/31/01	RYAN			
	6,273,887	8/14/01	YAMAUCHI ET AL.			
	6,277,117	8/21/01	TETZLAFF ET AL.			
	6,334,860	1/1/02	DORN			
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INFOR	RMATION DISCLOSU	RE CITATION	Docket Number (Optional) 2081CON2CIPCO (203-2400CON2CIPO		Application 10/736,18	
	IN AN APPLICATI	ON	Applicant Buysse et al.			
	(Use several sheets if nec	æssary)	Filing Date December 15, 200	03	Group Art N	lumber 3739
		U.S. PATENT	Γ DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	6,334,861	1/1/02	CHANDLER ET AL.			
	6,350,264	2/26/02	HOOVEN			
	6,352,536	3/5/02	BUYSSE ET AL.	1		
	6,409,728	6/25/02	EHR ET AL.			
	6,425,896	7/30/02	BALTSCHUN ET AL.			
	6,443,970	9/3/02	SCHULZE ET AL.			
	6,451,018	9/17/02	LANDS ET AL.			
	6,458,128	10/1/02	SCHULZE			
	6,458,130	10/1/02	FRAZIER ET AL.			
	6,464,704	10/15/02	SCHMALTZ ET AL.			
	6,503,248	1/7/03	LEVINE			
	6,506,189	1/14/03	RITTMAN, III ET AL.			
	6,511,480	1/28/03	TETZLAFF ET AL.			
	6,514,251	2/4/03	NI ET AL.			
	6,544,264	4/8/03	LEVINE ET AL.			
	6,569,162	5/27/03	HE			
	6,620,161	9/16/03	SCHULZE ET AL.			
	6,663,629	12/16/03	BUYSSE ET AL.			
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	US2003/0018331 A1	01/23/03	DYCUS ET AL.			
	H2037 H	7/2/02	YATES ET AL.			
	H1904	10/3/00	YATES ET AL.			
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		with reference	es	Sheet	10 c	of	14
Form PTO-1	449		Docket Number (Optional) 2081CON2C		Application N 10/736,180		
INFO	RMATION DISCLOSURE	CITATION	(203-2400CON				
	IN AN APPLICATION	١	Applicant Buysse et al.				
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		EODELONDA	December 1		3	3739	
		FOREIGN PA	TENT DOCUMENT	S			
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Transla Yes	tion No
	EP1082944A1	3/14/01	EP				
	EP1080694A1	3/7/01	EP				
	EP1055400A1	11/29/00	EP			-	
	EP1055399A1	11/29/00	EP				
	EP1053720A1	11/22/00	EP				
	EP1053719A1	11/22/00	EP				
	EP1050278A1	11/8/00	EP				
	EP1034746A3	10/18/00	EP				
	EP1025807A3	10/4/00	EP				
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Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or nor citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through	Sales/Product Literature								
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or nor citation is in conformance with MPEP \$609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.	Examiner		Date Cons	idered					
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Form PTO-1449		Docket Number (Optional)		Application Number	
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION		(203-2400CON2CIPC	ON)		
		Applicant			
		Buysse et al.			
(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date		Group Art Number	
		December 15, 2003		3739	
	ОТНЕ	RDOCUMENTS			
Jarrett et al., "Use of the LigaSure Vessel Sealing System for Peri-Hilar Vessels in Laparoscopic Nephrectomy"					
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Int'l Search Report PCT/U	Int'l Search Report PCT/US99/24869				
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